MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY

STUDENT ID NO

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SUPPLEMANTARY EXAMINATION

TRIMESTER 1, 2015/2016

PGE 0015 – GENERAL ENGLISH

(Foundation in Creative Multimedia)

17 NOV 2015
2.30 PM – 4.30 PM
(2 HOURS)

INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENTS

1. This question paper consists of **SIX** pages.
2. Answer **ALL** questions.
3. Write your answers in the Answer Booklet.

SECTION A: READING AND VOCABULARY [25 MARKS]

Instructions: Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

Could Shakespeare Have Written Shakespeare's Plays?

1 Literary detectives have uncovered many facts about William Shakespeare. Still, the most important question of all remains: Did he really write the Shakespeare plays? Sir Francis Bacon, Christopher Marlowe, the Earl of Southhampton (Shakespeare's patron), and even Queen Elizabeth herself have at times been suspected of writing them. The sheer volume of Shakespeare's work – 37 plays, 154 sonnets, 2 other poems, and an elegy – has led to suggestions that "William Shakespeare" was actually several people, not one.

2 In fact, the first person to make the argument did it as a joke, as Shakespeare scholar James Shapiro points out in his book *Contested Will: Who Wrote Shakespeare?* In 1848, a discouraged young Lutheran scholar from Pennsylvania named Samuel Mosheim Schmucker, **dismayed** about the academic trend of using historical and biographical evidence to doubt the existence of Christ, argued that the same approaches could be used to argue that Shakespeare never existed. But he meant it all as a parody. Shapiro says that Schmucker's forgotten book, *Historic Doubts Respecting Shakespeare: Illustrating Infidel Objections Against the Bible*, foreshadows all the major themes of the Shakespearean doubters: the lack of documentary evidence, a distrust of disputed texts, the improbable success of an unlikely individual, and the notion that the "official" story can only be perpetuated by general ignorance, and plot and **conspiracy** by the establishment. "Schmucker has a great time of it," writes Shapiro, "mostly because it never entered his head that his readers could seriously imagine that Shakespeare wasn't Shakespeare." But, if anything, the joke was on Schmucker.

3 The strongest current debate is between groups known as the Oxfordians and the Stratfordians. Oxfordians say that Edward de Vere, the 17th Earl of Oxford, wrote the plays under the pen name William Shakespeare. Stratfordians say that the works were all written by William Shakespeare, an actor known to have been born at Stratford in 1564. The challenge for both sides is to produce solid evidence. So far, neither side has come up with much.

4 Oxfordians say the actor Shakespeare was too poorly educated to have been the author of the plays. He was the son of a tradesman, and there is no record that he had any schooling. There is no evidence that he ever travelled outside Southern England. He was just an actor and occasional real-estate investor. His will mentions no writings, and there is no evidence he ever owned a book. A background like that could not have been **adequate** for writing such brilliant plays. The life of Edward de Vere, on the other hand, was more than acceptable. His education was the best money could buy. He was intimately familiar with England's noble families. He travelled to many locations important in Shakespeare's plays, including France, Scotland, and Italy.

5 The de Vere theory gained a lot of support after 1991. In that year, researchers began studying the handwritten notes in de Vere's copy of 1569 edition of the Bible. About 1000 Bible passages are underlined or otherwise marked. Nearly 25 percent of them match up with parts of Shakespeare's work. Probably not a coincidence, say the Oxfordians. For example, part of Act V in the *Merchant of*

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Venice speaks of good deed shining out "in a naughty world". One of the passages de Vere underlined in his Bible contains the phrase "a naughty and crooked nation, among ye shine as lights in the world.

6 Stradfordians reply, "Why look beyond William Shakespeare of Stratford?" He was not the backward son of a lowly family, as many claim. His father was a prosperous merchant who held the town's highest office (high bailiff).The King's New School in Stratford offered an excellent education. Although school records cannot be found, it is likely that the town's high bailiff sent his son there. Shakespeare moved to London in the late 1580s, in his early twenties. There he became famous and wealthy as an actor and as London's leading playwright. Certain aspects of his life seem to match better with the plays than de Vere's do. For example, the perceptive portrayal of emotional depression in *Hamlet* seems to indicate that the author had experienced the ailment. *Hamle*t was written around the year 1600, four years after William Shakespeare's only son, Hamnet died at the age of 11.

7 Stratfordians also point out that the de Vere theory assumes an unlikely **hoax** or deception. The Oxford camp claims that de Vere wanted to hide his authorship because it went against the protocol for the noble class. A highborn earl simply should not be writing plays for common people. To give de Vere cover, William Shakespeare of Stratford must have agreed, probably for a pay, to serve as a front man. The Stratfordians point out that, for this to be true, Shakespeare's many friends and acquaintances were either blind enough to be fooled by it or willing to be in on the trick. The same goes for de Vere's friends and acquaintances, including the very intelligent Queen Elizabeth. The part hardest to believe is that a scheme like that could be sustained for decades without the secret being revealed.

8 Another difficulty for the Oxfordians is that the 17th Earl of Oxford died in 1604. Many of the greatest plays were produced after this date. *Macbeth*, for example, dates from 1606-1607 and *The Tempest* from 1611. A great deal of careful work has confirmed these dates, and most Oxfordians reluctantly concede that de Vere's death preceded the appearance of these plays. However, the Oxford camp persists in maintaining their position. They argue that de Vere wrote them before he died and that they were brought out as needed for performance. Apart from that, the texts of many Shakespeare's plays contain references to events after 1604. The Oxfordians say someone must have added **contemporary** references to make the plays look timely.

9 Any debate centered on speculation alone will not probably last a very long time. Neither side in this debate seems likely to accumulate the evidence necessary to be able to settle the matter. As one researcher Al Austin, summarises the controversy, " those who believe de Vere was Shakespeare must accept improbable hoax as part of it, a conspiracy of silence involving many others, Queen Elizabeth herself. Those who side with the Stratford man must believe in miracles".

Adapted from Hechinger, P. (2011, October 24). Could Shakespeare have written Shakespeare's plays? BBC America Retrieved from: http://www.bbcamerica.com/anglophenia/2011/10/did-shakespeare-really-write-his-plays-a-few-theories-examined/

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Question 1: Contextual Clues (5 marks)
Instructions: Based on the passage, provide a word or phrase that best defines each of the following words.

a) dismayed (line 11)
b) conspiracy (line 19)
c) adequate (line 34)
d) hoax (line 59)
e) contemporary (line 77)

Question 2: True-False Statement (5 marks)

Instructions: For each statement, write **TRUE** if the statement is true and **FALSE** if the statement is false.

a) There is a serious debate about whether Shakespeare's plays were really written by Edward de Vere.
b) Unlike Shakespeare, de Vere is known to have travelled to locations important in the plays.
c) Stratfordians say that even though Shakespeare was uneducated, he taught himself enough to have written the plays.
d) About one-quarter of the 1000 Bible passages that de Vere highlighted are very similar to parts of Shakespearean works.
e) All of Shakespearean plays appeared after de Vere's death.

Question 3: Comprehension (15 marks)
Instructions: Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

a) What is the evidence that sparked the idea that William Shakespeare was actually several people, not one? (1 mark)
b) How did Schmucker put forward the argument that Shakespeare could never have existed? (1 mark)
c) List the arguments mentioned by Schmucker which could have been the reasons that sparked doubters about William Shakespeare. (2 marks)
d) Supporters of the de Vere's theory suggest that Vere's life best support the claim that he was the man behind such brilliant plays. What are they? (3 marks)
e) Why did the Stratfordians say that the de Vere's theory "assumes an unlikely hoax"? (3 marks)
f) What were the claims made by the Oxfordians to prove that the greatest plays were written by de Vere even though he died in 1604? (3 marks)
g) What is the writer's opinion regarding the debate? (2 marks)

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SECTION B: GRAMMAR [15 MARKS]

Question 1: Verb Tense Consistency (5 marks)

Instructions: This extract contains five verb errors in verb tense consistency. Identify and correct the errors as illustrated in the example.

Example:	No.	Line	Error	Correction
	0	1	was	is

Robert Capa

Robert Capa **was** a name that has for many years been synonymous with war photography.

Born in Hungary in 1913 as Friedmann Endre Ernő, Capa was forced to leave his native country after his involvement in anti government protests. Originally, Capa wants to become a writer, but after his arrival in Berlin, he found work as a photographer. He later left Germany and moved to France due to the rise in Nazism.

In 1936, after the breakout of the Spanish Civil war, Capa went to Spain, and it was here over the next three years that he built his reputation as a war photographer. It was here too in 1936 that he took one of his most famous pictures, The Death of a Loyalist Soldier. One of Capa's most famous quotes was "If your pictures aren't good enough, you're not close enough." His photograph, The Death of a Loyalist Soldier was a prime example of this as Capa captures the very moment the soldier falls.

When World war II broke out, Capa was in New York, but he was soon back in Europe covering the war for Life magazine. Some of his most famous work was created on 6th June 1944 when he swam ashore with the first assault on Omaha Beach in the D-Day invasion of Normandy. Capa, armed only with two cameras, took more than one hundred photographs in the first hour of the landing, but a mistake in the darkroom during the drying of the film destroys all but eight frames. It was the images from these frames however that inspired the visual style of Steven Spielberg's Oscar winning movie 'Saving Private Ryan'.

Capa died as he had lived. After promising not to photograph any more wars, he accepted an assignment to go to Indochina to cover the first Indochina war. On May 25th, 1954, Capa had accompanied a French regiment when he left his jeep to take some photographs of the advance and stepped on a land mine. He was taken to a nearby hospital, still clutching his camera, but was pronounced dead on arrival. He left behind him a testament to the horrors of war and a standard for photojournalism that few others have been able to reach.

Capa's legacy has lived on though and in 1966 his brother Cornell founded the International Fund for Concerned Photography in his honor. There is also a Robert Capa Gold Medal, which is given to the photographer who is publishing the best photographic reporting from abroad with evidence of exceptional courage. However, perhaps his greatest legacy of all is the haunting images of the human struggles that he captured.

Adapted from The TOEFL® Reading Test 4: Free practice tests for learners of English (n.d.). Retrieved from http://www.examenglish.com/TOEFL/toefl_reading.htm

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Question 2: Verb Tenses (10 marks)
Instruction: Fill in the blanks with appropriate usage of tenses for the words in the brackets.

Example: A research **(0)** **has revealed** **(reveal)** a drastic lack of women working in theatres around the UK.

Leading Theatres Commit to Gender Equality Measures

A research **(0)** _____ **(reveal)** a drastic lack of women working in theatres around the UK. Leading venues including Sheffield Theatres, Chichester Festival Theatre and the Tricycle Theatre in London (1) _____ (commit) to new measures for improving gender equality in creative and backstage roles.

Gender equality organization, Tonic Theatre, analysed productions staged on September 13. It was found that of the 24 productions staged across the top 20 theatres in receipt of the most Arts Council England core funding, women (2) _____ (account) for just 8% of writers, 37% of performers and 38% of directors. Women made up 17% of sound designers, 22% of lighting designers and 57% of set designers.

When looking at 20 theatres in the commercial West End that staged a play on this night, the findings showed that just 4% of shows were by female writers, with 29% of actors and the same proportion of directors being female.

The research was conducted as part of a six-month project by Tonic Theatre, run by theatre director Lucy Kerbel, which (3) _____ (explore) the working practices of 11 theatres and how they could improve career paths for women.

Sheffield Theatres has pledged to create equal numbers of parts for male and female actors across its in-house productions within the next year. Artistic director Daniel Evans acknowledged that the theatre (4) _____ (employ) more male actors than female and said this needed to be redressed.

Meanwhile, Chichester Festival Theatre has said it would commission more female writers over the next five years. In future, it (5) _____ (share) information about emerging writers who are women with other venues. This comes after the venue found it "(6) _____ (not) have a track record for actively commissioning mid-career level female playwrights for its stages".

The Tricycle Theatre (7) _____ (look) at its own statistics and found that in its 2014/15 season, while women made up 70% of its directors, 64% of its writers, 55% of actors and 70% of sound designers, only 10% of its set and lighting designers were women. It will now introduce workshops for lighting designers and provide more networking opportunities for designers and its artistic team.

English Touring Theatre has pledged to improve its safety information for female actors and stage managers travelling between venues to their accommodation while on tour, and Pentabus Touring Company (8) _____ (create) a pregnancy pack for female actors that will be used to inform performers and organisations about practical steps that should be in place when employing expectant mothers.

Tonic Theatre director Kerbel said: "Achieving greater gender equality on our stages isn't just important because it's the right thing to do, but because without it, we're short-changing our audiences. No theatre can confidently say it (9) _____ (offer) its audiences the broadest, most exciting range of work if it's systematically failing to showcase the ideas, stories, and creativity of half the population."

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Equity has welcomed the theatres' commitment to changing their programmes and working practices in a bid to improve gender equality and said it was keen to see their detailed proposals.

The union's general secretary Christine Payne said: "This is a welcome development and a big departure from the recent position many theatres (10) _____ (take) on this issue. We monitored the gender balance of roles on stage and wrote to artistic directors in 2011 with the results. We asked to engage with them on this issue and only a very small number responded."

Adapted from Merrifield, N. (2014, September 23). Leading theatres commit to gender equality measures. Retrieved from https://www.thestage.co.uk/news/2014/leading-theatres-commit-gender-equality-measures

SECTION C: WRITING [20 MARKS]

Using only the information given, write about the 2014 World Art Museum Ranking Awards. Integrate all the information given below. You should write between 150 to 200 words.

Table 1: World Art Museum Ranking 2014

Rank 2014	Art Museum	Rank 2013
1	Louvre, Paris	7
2	Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York	4
3	British Museum, London	3
4	Tate Modern, London	6
5	National Gallery, London	2
6	National Palace Museum, Taiwan	9
7	National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.	18
8	Centre Pompidou, Paris	10
9	National Museum of Korea, Seoul	5
10	Musée d'Orsay, Paris	1

Figure 1: World Art Museum Awards 2014

Best Renaissance Exhibits	Louvre, Paris
Best Egyptian Exhibits	British Museum, London
Best Abstract Art Exhibits	Centre Pompidou, Paris
Best Native American Art Exhibits	National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.
Best Aboriginal Art Exhibits	National Palace Museum, Taiwan

The data was gathered using a range of input sources:

- Online visitor surveys
- Academic research group interviews
- Selected visitor interviews

End of Paper